(b) whether a labourer/workman is given 5 kgs. of rice or 6 kgs. of wheat and Rs. 28/- per day towards his salary;

(c) whether this monthly amount of Rs. 840/- is sufficient to meet the family requirements of a labour/workman; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to increase the daily wages of the labour as per the dearness allowance?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) According to the Planning Commission, all India poverty line for rural and urban areas is estimated at average per capita monthly income of Rs. 327.56 and Rs. 454.11 in 1999-2000 respectively.

(b) to (d) Wages of workers differ from occupation to occupation, unit to unit and region to region. Fixation of wage above the notified 'Minimum' is a subject of negotiation between the employers and the employees.

Amendment in labour laws

2493. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend labour laws in the country to meet the requirement of foreign direct investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy, such as, attaining higher levels of productivity and competitiveness, increasing employment opportunities, attracting more investment both domestic and foreign, etc. Accordingly, Bills, to amend the Factories Act, 1948 and the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Act, 1988 have been introduced in the Parliament.

Migration of labour

2494. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the recurrent

droughts, the farm labourer and the farmer with small land-holding are looking towards bigger towns especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government had prepared any data in this regard for each State/UT;

(d) if so, the records available with Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to curb such a large scale migration to bigger towns?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) Government are aware that people move from one State to another including Andhra Pradesh for various reasons like absence of employment opportunities in their home State, famine/droughts, in search of better avenues of employment, business etc. As per census 2001, 314.54 million persons moved for various reasons within the country. Out of these, 29.90 million migrated for reasons of employment. Data regarding farm labourer and farmer moving from one State to another due to droughts are not maintained at central level. However, in order to generate better employment opportunities at State level, the Government have launched a number of schemes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), etc. Further, the Government have recently enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to provide 100 days guaranteed employment to the rural household.

Functioning of EPFO

2495. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is the trusty and custodian of provident fund belonging to Central Government employees and the task of its day-to-day governance is vest in Commissioner, EPFO;